

KHQA

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Bill sets guidelines for stroke, heart attack care

SPRINGFIELD, MO. (AP) -- Stroke and heart attack patients in Missouri could get faster, better help that will improve their chances for survival under a new state law.

Legislation signed by Governor Matt Blunt on Friday created a "Time Critical Diagnosis System" for stroke and a fatal type of heart attack called ST-elevation myocardial infarction.

The legislation requires emergency medical services to take people with acute stroke and STEMI to a designated center of care first.

That's instead of taking them to the closest facility.

Doctors say incoming stroke patients will get "reperfusion therapy," or tPA, a clot-busting drug, as soon as possible.

After a stroke, doctors have about three hours to try to get blood flow back to the brain.

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